

continued his work as a performer both on the bandstand and on television & radio as well. He hosted his own jazz piano show for Bravo, "Jazz Counterpoint," which featured such artists as George Shearing, Marian McPartland and Ramsey Lewis, along with two different NPR radio series, "Dizzy's Diamond," and "Taylor Made Piano," which featured the history of jazz using the piano to tell the story. Based upon Dr. Taylor's book, "Jazz Piano," "Taylor Made Piano" won a Peabody Award and generated more requests for tapes than any previous NPR program. As the 80's drew to a close, Billy Taylor signed with GRP/Impulse, making some of his most popular recordings, including the re-release of *My Fair Lady Loves Jazz* (arranged by Quincy Jones), *It's A Matter of Pride*, Dr. T (featuring Gerry Mulligan) and *Homage* (featuring the Turtle Island String Quartet) which received a Grammy nomination in 1996.

During the 90's Dr. Taylor was named Artistic Advisor for Jazz to the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Since 1994, under the umbrella of Jazz at the Kennedy Center, Taylor has developed one acclaimed concert series after another including the Art Tatum Pianorama, the Louis Armstrong Legacy series, the annual Mary Lou Williams Women in Jazz Festival, Beyond Category, Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead and the Jazz Ambassadors Program. His nationally broadcast NPR series, "Billy Taylor's Jazz at the Kennedy Center" is recorded live and features a mix of performances, audience Q & A, and conversations with musical guests. (see the Education/Residencies section of this website). Billy pioneered this play a little, talk a little format in the early 80's, with his "Jazz Models & Mentors" series, presented four times a year at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. Taylor performs regularly with his current trio (Chip Jackson/bass & Winard Harper/drums) as well as with his long time friend, pianist Ramsey Lewis. When he's not touring, composing or recording, he can be found in classrooms throughout the country, conducting master classes, workshops and lecture/demonstrations. As he approaches his 80th birthday, Billy Taylor remains vigorously dedicated to nurturing jazz and creating new forums and opportunities for the artists who perform it. He encompasses that rare combination of creativity, intelligence, vision, commitment and leadership, all qualities that make him one of our most cherished national treasures."

In March 2005, Dr. Taylor retired from concert performance.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING ROB VERNON

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas Rob Vernon has been a dedicated president of the Muskingum County Farm Bureau worthy of merit and recognition; and

Whereas, Rob Vernon should be rewarded for his passion and commitment toward farming; and

Whereas, Rob Vernon should be commended for the excellence and devotion with which he served the county of Muskingum.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Rob Vernon for his outstanding accomplishments.

RELIGIOUS LEADERS SPEAK OUT ON BUDGET

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, our national budget and spending bills reflect our government's values and priorities, and in recent years those priorities have been skewed heavily in favor of helping the rich and eroding protections for the poor. Our country's religious leaders recognize that danger, and for the second time this year have issued statements calling on our government to truly care for the least among us and to abide by a budget and spending plan that reflects the higher values and morals of our country. I would like to submit for the RECORD a letter from the leaders of many of the major Protestant churches in our country and another by the National Council of Jewish women calling on Congress not to abandon the poor in the aftermath of Katrina. The budget reconciliation process should not be used to further reduce funding for education, food stamps, health care, and other critical domestic priorities while spending twice that amount in tax cuts for the wealthiest among us.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, USA,
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN AMERICAN, PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH (U.S.A.), UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST, UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2005.

DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: As leaders of our respective denominations, we have long sought an end to the injustices inherent in poverty. We have never seen these injustices born out so vividly in our own country as in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The devastation wrought by Katrina has exposed the anguished faces of the poor in the wealthiest nation on the planet. These faces, precious in the eyes of God, cause us to remember that racial disparities and poverty exist in almost every community in our nation. They also compel us to set before Congress once again our concerns for the FY '06 federal budget and its impact on people living in poverty. With renewed urgency, we call on Congress to stop the FY '06 federal budget reconciliation process immediately.

We believe our federal budget is a concrete expression of our shared moral values and priorities. Congress rightly and quickly responded in appropriating needed funds to ensure an adequate initial response to Hurricane Katrina. Our denominations have mobilized and are responding in prayer and financial support and direct service to those in need. Yet, just as disaster struck the Gulf Coast, the U.S. Census Bureau reported in very particular detail that poverty in the United States is growing. The annual report, *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2004* showed that 37.0 million people lived in poverty in 2004, an increase of more than one million people since 2003.

In April, during consideration of the budget resolution we wrote to Congress that, "As we view the FY '06 Federal Budget through our lens of faith this budget, on balance, con-

tinues to ask our nation's working poor to pay the cost of a prosperity in which they may never share." It is clear that programs such as Medicaid and the Food Stamp Program that were slated for cuts by Congress will in fact have greater burdens placed on them as a result of Hurricane Katrina. These programs are not simply entitlements or "government hand-outs," they represent the deep and abiding commitment of a nation to care for the least among us.

Believe us when we tell you that even before Hurricane Katrina or the Census Bureau's report, neither we nor our friends of other faiths had the resources to turn back the rising tide of poverty in this country. The FY '06 reconciliation bill that is working its way through the authorizing committees will send more people searching for food in cupboards that, quite frequently, are bare.

We commit ourselves to working for economic policies infused with the spirit of the One who began his public ministry almost 2,000 years ago by proclaiming that God had anointed him "to bring good news to the poor."

The Most Reverend FRANK
T. GRISWOLD,

*Presiding Bishop and
Primate of the Epis-
copal Church, USA.*

The Right Reverend MARK
HANSON,

*Presiding Bishop of
the Evangelical Lu-
theran Church in
America.*

The Reverend Dr. CLIFTON
KIRKPATRICK,

*Stated Clerk of the
General Assembly,
Presbyterian Church
(U.S.A.).*

The Reverend JOHN H.
THOMAS,

*General Minister and
President, United
Church of Christ.*

JAMES WINKLER,
General Secretary,
General Board of
Church and Soci-
ety, United Meth-
odist Church.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN URGES NEW NATIONAL PRIORITIES IN KATRINA'S WAKE

NEW YORK, SEPT. 12, 2005.—In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) President Phyllis Snyder issued the following statement:

We have watched with alarm the tragedy that continues to unfold in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast as a result of Katrina. Our hearts go out to all of the people who have suffered from this disastrous hurricane—those who have lost loved ones, homes, livelihoods, and their communities.

We applaud the efforts of the individuals who have worked day and night to rescue and provide relief to those victimized by Katrina. So, too, we salute the countless volunteers, many of whom are from NCJW, working to assist evacuees who have relocated to their communities.

This is a tragedy compounded by the grave mistakes made by the very people and institutions charged with keeping us safe. We urge the establishment of an independent commission of inquiry with adequate budget authority and subpoena power to investigate this catastrophe. It is important that this effort rise above partisan politics in order to determine exactly what went wrong and to make recommendations for the future.

Recovering from Katrina will necessitate measures that go well beyond the immediate

cleanup and rebuilding tasks. This disaster has exposed the fault lines of race and poverty in our society that we all knew existed but which have been ignored, especially in recent years.

NCJW calls upon our leaders and lawmakers to realign their priorities, and we pledge to redouble our efforts to ensure that this happens. We must prioritize funding to address human needs over tax cuts that disproportionately benefit the wealthy and drain vital budgetary resources. We must act to address the vestiges of racism that linger in our society. And we must act to ensure that the communities that rise from the rubble embody a new vision of equality and social justice.

H.R. 3673, SECOND EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincerest condolences and sympathies to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. With the recent devastation of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, our Nation has reached a state of emergency. My thoughts and prayers are with those who have been tragically uprooted from their communities, or have lost loved ones in the path of the destruction. I wholeheartedly support the effort to provide food, water, and daily necessities to these victims, as well as the long-term effort to rebuild our Gulf Coast and house the now-homeless.

As we move forward with the effort to provide for families and to rebuild, it is Congress' job to ensure that federal aid and taxpayer dollars are spent appropriately and are reaching the truly needy. Last week, the Federal Emergency Management Agency was spending just over \$500 million a day, an unprecedented rate, and over the weekend spending reached \$2 billion a day. Over \$60 billion in emergency appropriations has been allocated, a record for disaster relief, and Congress is expected to authorize more funds in the coming weeks.

I strongly urge that future spending bills for Hurricane Katrina include controls on how the money will be spent; that this spending is offset with reductions in other programs, just as Congress did following the California earthquake and the Oklahoma City bombing; and that Federal resources are allocated for rebuilding only where State and local governments and the private sector cannot provide the funds.

Additionally, I encourage accountability and meticulous record keeping within the federal organizations funding the emergency and rebuilding efforts. I feel it is imperative that the Department of Homeland Security and other related agencies help these citizens and rebuild these towns, but in a financially responsible manner, ensuring every dollar is spent wisely and fairly in an effort to best help the victims of this tragedy. In this time of disaster, it is important that we do not saddle future generations with unmanageable debt, but rather work together to exercise fiscal responsibility.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER ROBERT FERRARA

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to honor a dedicated and heroic public servant from the Nineteenth Congressional District of New York. We nearly lost one of our finest citizens when Town of Chester Police Officer Robert Ferrara was critically injured while serving in the line of duty.

Officer Robert Ferrara, age 34, was seriously wounded on the night of July 20, 2005, when a drunk driver smashed head-on into his police vehicle. He suffered multiple fractures throughout his body including: a punctured lung, a ruptured spleen, a lacerated liver, a kidney abrasion, and a laceration to his head.

Officer Ferrara has dutifully served the Town of Chester since 1999 as a police officer. Previously, he spent 4 years working as a Deputy Sheriff with the Orange County Sheriffs Office. In addition to his public service, Officer Ferrara is the dedicated father of a 7-year-old girl.

Officer Ferrara's relentless determination and resolve to overcome tragedy has served as a guiding light. His willpower and inner strength have touched his family, his friends, and even those who never met him but have heard of his courage. His community has been inspired by Officer Ferrara. Over 200 people recently participated in a blood drive in his honor, with some waiting in line for hours.

Officer Ferrara deserves recognition for he symbolizes the likes of an exemplary officer and diligent public servant possessing an unwavering commitment to serving others and protecting the well-being of the community.

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF LOUIS MENDELSON

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Louis Mendelson; and

Whereas, Louis Mendelson will certainly be remembered by all those who knew him because of his upright character; and

Whereas, Louis Mendelson was born and raised in Bellaire, Ohio and owned the former Berman's Mens Store in Bellaire; and

Whereas, Louis Mendelson was active in many endeavors in his community as a member of the Temple Shalom Synagogue in Wheeling, West Virginia, a member of the Bellaire Area Chamber of Commerce, and Bellaire Kiwanis Club; and

Whereas, Louis Mendelson will be remembered and honored for his public service as a U.S. Army Veteran of World War II.

Therefore, while I understand how words cannot express our grief at this most trying of times, I offer this token of profound sympathy to the family and friends of Louis Mendelson.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF NORTH TEXANS TO HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the compassionate contributions of North Texans towards the hurricane relief efforts. During the past two weeks, televisions across the nation have brought into our living rooms images of the terrible destruction and suffering caused by Hurricane Katrina. Obviously our hearts ache at seeing our fellow Americans in desperate need, struggling at first just to survive, and now beginning to put their lives back together, one piece at a time. This desperation and despair, however, has not gone unanswered. Americans have come together in the past weeks, giving new meaning to the word "community," and the North Texas community has been a leader in this endeavor.

The City of Dallas and the surrounding areas have served as models of compassion, generosity, and leadership as North Texas has welcomed thousands who have been so tragically displaced by the hurricane into our neighborhoods and communities. So many sectors have given so selflessly of their time and resources to those in desperate need: city and county administrations, transit agencies, faith-based institutions, educational institutions, private and non-profit sector entities, and regular citizens have answered humanity's greatest call.

The American Red Cross in North Texas has come to the aid of thousands of evacuees here in Dallas, providing much needed meals and beds. Volunteers at the Call Center of the Dallas Emergency Operations Center have fielded thousands of calls, helping to organize this massive relief effort. Transportation has been generously provided by Dallas Area Rapid Transit, who have distributed over 3500 transit passes to evacuees, and the Dallas Water Utilities Distribution Division has assisted by providing pallets and personnel at the Dallas Convention Center.

The area's first responders have acted with bravery and selflessness. The Dallas Police Department has committed over 300 officers to support evacuee operations. The Texas State Guard has provided invaluable medical and shelter management services, deploying over 250 guardsmen to the Convention Center and Reunion Arena shelters alone. Fire Rescue and EMS personnel have lent their expertise to the relief effort at shelters throughout Dallas, and nearly two thousand patients have been served.

The Surgeon General of the United States, Richard Carmona, has described medical operations in Dallas as "nothing short of astounding," and Mr. Justo Hernandez, the coordinating officer on site with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has reported that, in his 17 years of service with the agency, FEMA has never been as well received as it has in Dallas. Louisiana State Representative Derrick Shepherd described the effort as a "first-class administration of a difficult administration" and New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin stated, "People are doing great work everywhere in Texas".